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## **County Employment and Wages in Nevada – Third Quarter 2015**

Employment increased in Nevada's two large counties from September 2014 to September 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2014 annual average employment.) Washoe County's employment rose 4.3 percent and Clark County's employment rose 3.5 percent. Richard Holden, Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations, noted that the over-the-year employment increases in both counties exceeded the national increase of 1.9 percent.

From September 2014 to September 2015, 312 of the 342 largest U.S. counties gained jobs. Williamson, Tenn., had the largest percentage increase in the country, up 6.5 percent over the year. Ector, Texas, had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment, with a loss of 8.3 percent.

Employment in Clark County (913,400) and Washoe County (205,100) accounted for 89.2 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 342 largest counties made up 72.2 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 140.4 million in September 2015.

Average weekly wages increased over the year in both Washoe County (up 2.5 percent to \$877) and Clark County (up 2.4 percent to \$843). Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 2.6 percent over the year to \$974 in the third quarter of 2015. (See [table 1.](#))

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 15 counties in Nevada with employment below 75,000. Average weekly wages in these counties ranged from \$1,742 to \$706 during the third quarter of 2015. (See [table 2.](#))

### **Large county wage changes**

Average weekly wage growth in Washoe County (2.5 percent) and Clark County (2.4 percent) ranked 165<sup>th</sup> and 178<sup>th</sup>, respectively, among the 342 largest U.S. counties. (See [table 1.](#)) Nationally, 319 of the 342 largest counties registered over-the-year wage increases. Rockland, N.Y., had the largest wage gain, up 24.9 percent from the third quarter of 2014. Lake, Ill., was second with a wage increase of 11.7 percent, followed by Onondaga, N.Y. (6.5 percent), Washington, Ore. (6.4 percent), and Marin, Calif., and Santa Cruz, Calif. (6.1 percent each).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 20 experienced over-the-year wage decreases. Midland, Texas, had the largest wage decrease with a loss of 6.7 percent. Ector, Texas, had the second largest decrease in average

weekly wages, down 4.9 percent, followed by Lafayette, La. (-3.2 percent), Stark, Ohio (-2.1 percent), and Gregg, Texas (-1.5 percent).

### **Large county average weekly wages**

Average weekly wages in Nevada's two large counties were below the national average of \$974 per week. Washoe County's \$877 average weekly wage placed 186<sup>th</sup>, near the middle of the national ranking among the 342 large U.S. counties. At \$843 per week, Clark County's average weekly wage placed 221<sup>st</sup>.

Nationally, 100 large counties registered average weekly wages above the U.S. average of \$974 in the third quarter of 2015. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of \$2,090. San Mateo, Calif., was second at \$1,894, followed by New York, N.Y. (\$1,829), San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,712), and Washington, D.C. (\$1,667).

Seventy-one percent of the largest U.S. counties (242) reported weekly wages below the national average. Horry County, S.C., reported the lowest wage (\$598), followed by Cameron, Texas (\$615), Hidalgo, Texas (\$624), Marion, Fla., and Webb, Texas. (\$658 each).

### **Average weekly wages in Nevada's smaller counties**

Of the 15 counties in Nevada with employment below 75,000, Eureka had the highest average weekly wage at \$1,742. Lincoln County had the lowest average weekly wage in the state at \$706 in the third quarter of 2015. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 17 counties in Nevada were considered, 2 had wages below \$800. Six counties reported average weekly wages ranging from \$800 to \$899, five had wages from \$900 to \$999, and four had wages above \$1000. (See [chart 1](#).)

### **Additional statistics and other information**

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in [table 3](#). For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the [Technical Note](#) or visit [www.bls.gov/cew](http://www.bls.gov/cew).

*Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2014 edition of this publication contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2015 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2014* are now available online at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn14.htm>. The 2015 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2016.

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**The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2015 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 8, 2016.**

### **Technical Note**

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The 9.4 million employer reports cover 136.6 million full- and part-time workers. The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS Web site at [www.bls.gov/cew/](http://www.bls.gov/cew/); however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 2 largest counties in Nevada, third quarter 2015**

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	September 2015 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2014-15 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, third quarter 2014-15 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	140,442.2	1.9	--	\$974	--	2.6	--
Nevada.....	1,254.5	3.2	--	862	29	2.5	27
Clark, Nev.....	913.4	3.5	58	843	221	2.4	178
Washoe, Nev.....	205.1	4.3	19	877	186	2.5	165

<sup>(1)</sup> Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

<sup>(2)</sup> Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

<sup>(3)</sup> Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

<sup>(4)</sup> Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Nevada, third quarter 2015**

Area	Employment September 2015	Average Weekly Wage ( <sup>1</sup> )
United States ( <sup>2</sup> ) .....	140,442,224	\$974
Nevada.....	1,254,497	862
Carson City.....	27,971	915
Churchill.....	7,620	805
Clark.....	913,386	843
Douglas.....	19,191	815
Elko.....	21,626	895
Esmeralda.....	394	994
Eureka.....	4,503	1,742
Humboldt.....	7,635	1,059
Lander.....	3,429	1,383
Lincoln.....	1,238	706
Lyon.....	11,557	762
Mineral.....	1,233	800
Nye.....	10,906	967
Pershing.....	1,834	946
Storey.....	5,855	906
Washoe.....	205,075	877
White Pine.....	4,317	1,010

(<sup>1</sup>) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(<sup>2</sup>) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

NOTE: Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.  
Data are preliminary.

**Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, third quarter 2015**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	September 2015 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2014-15	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2014-15	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup>	140,442.2	1.9	\$974	--	2.6	--
Alabama	1,893.6	1.2	830	34	1.8	40
Alaska	346.4	0.4	1,041	9	2.2	34
Arizona	2,613.9	2.9	889	24	1.5	42
Arkansas	1,193.4	1.9	756	48	2.6	22
California	16,474.4	3.0	1,134	5	3.4	6
Colorado	2,513.0	2.9	1,006	12	2.4	30
Connecticut	1,668.3	0.2	1,147	4	2.0	38
Delaware	436.3	2.1	963	15	0.3	48
District of Columbia	743.6	1.4	1,667	1	2.3	33
Florida	8,023.2	3.5	852	31	3.1	10
Georgia	4,171.1	2.8	916	22	2.8	19
Hawaii	635.4	1.4	896	23	3.1	10
Idaho	680.3	3.3	736	50	2.1	37
Illinois	5,888.6	1.3	1,020	10	3.9	3
Indiana	2,971.7	1.6	818	39	2.4	30
Iowa	1,535.9	0.4	823	38	3.0	14
Kansas	1,370.9	0.6	809	41	1.8	40
Kentucky	1,852.5	1.4	804	42	2.9	18
Louisiana	1,926.3	-0.2	858	30	0.7	47
Maine	609.7	0.7	779	46	3.3	7
Maryland	2,607.8	1.3	1,067	8	2.4	30
Massachusetts	3,446.9	1.4	1,197	2	3.0	14
Michigan	4,203.0	1.6	921	20	2.7	20
Minnesota	2,800.7	1.4	990	14	2.6	22
Mississippi	1,118.9	1.2	706	51	1.3	43
Missouri	2,737.9	1.9	846	32	2.2	34
Montana	457.9	1.9	759	47	3.7	4
Nebraska	964.0	1.4	811	40	4.2	2
Nevada	1,254.5	3.2	862	29	2.5	27
New Hampshire	642.8	1.5	952	18	2.7	20
New Jersey	3,933.9	1.4	1,116	6	2.6	22
New Mexico	809.2	0.6	798	43	1.3	43
New York	9,065.4	1.8	1,180	3	3.1	10
North Carolina	4,194.1	2.5	863	28	3.0	14
North Dakota	438.0	-3.8	956	17	-2.3	51
Ohio	5,282.7	1.2	878	25	1.9	39
Oklahoma	1,598.0	0.2	825	37	0.0	49
Oregon	1,812.8	3.0	924	19	4.4	1
Pennsylvania	5,722.1	0.8	961	16	2.5	27
Rhode Island	477.4	1.2	919	21	2.6	22
South Carolina	1,959.7	2.9	788	44	2.6	22
South Dakota	419.5	0.9	756	48	3.1	10
Tennessee	2,850.6	2.7	864	27	3.2	8
Texas	11,681.0	2.1	999	13	1.1	45
Utah	1,353.9	3.7	829	35	3.2	8
Vermont	308.2	0.5	829	35	3.0	14
Virginia	3,759.7	2.5	1,014	11	2.5	27
Washington	3,187.6	2.5	1,111	7	2.2	34
West Virginia	702.4	-1.1	785	45	0.9	46
Wisconsin	2,815.7	0.9	834	33	3.5	5
Wyoming	287.4	-1.5	866	26	-1.1	50

**Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, third quarter 2015 - Continued**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	September 2015 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2014-15	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2014-15	National ranking by percent change
Puerto Rico.....	891.1	-0.7	512	(3)	1.4	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	36.8	-2.1	738	(3)	2.1	(3)

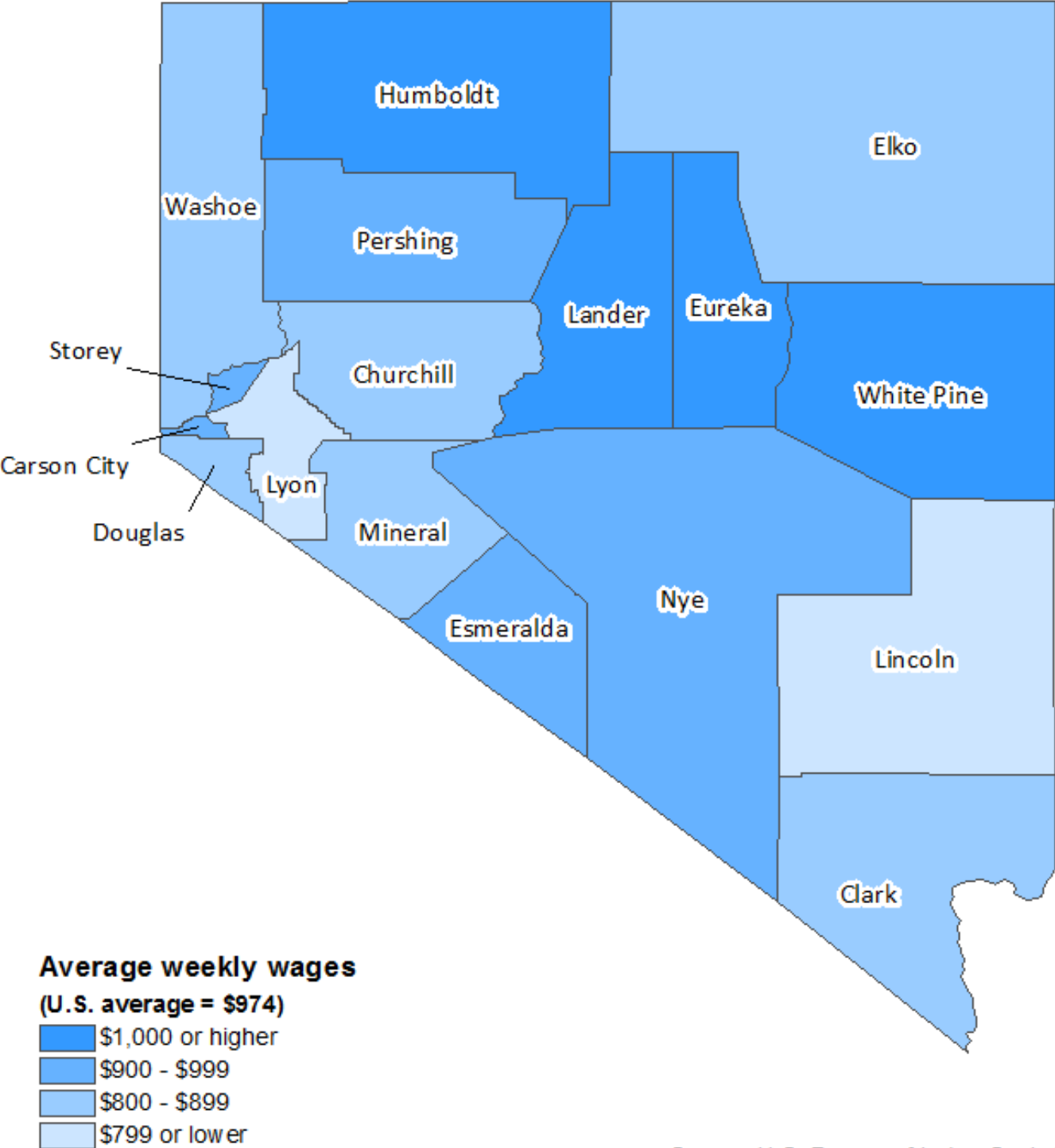
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Nevada, third quarter 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.